

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /066 W

----- 105331

R 181620Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8507

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1595

E.O. 11652: N/A

TA : PFOR TS LY

SUBJ: QADHAFI ALLEGEDLY INVITED TO TUNIS

1. ON MARCH 15 LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY BROADCAST STORY THAT LIBYAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN TUNIS HAD RELAYED TO QADHAFI AN INVITATION FROM BOURGUIBA TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT, AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE. STORY PRINTED TUNIS ARABIC PRESS MARCH 16 IN TAP RELEASE WHICH SAID WELL INFORMED TUNISIAN SOURCES DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER BUT ADDED THAT QADHAFI, AS PRESIDENT OF A NEIGHBORING, BROTHERLY STATE WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN TUNISIA. LE MONDE PRINTS STORY MARCH 18. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO FOLLOW-UP STORY IN TUNISIAN PRESS SINCE MARCH 16.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY SEES TWO POSSIBILITIES: (A) THAT QADHAFI INVENTED INVITATION STORY TO EMBARRASS BOURGUIBA, WHOM FORMER STILL VERY MUCH HOLDS ACCOUNTABLE TO CREATE FACT OF TUNISIAN/LIBYAN UNION: OR AND (B) THAT BOURGUIBA IN MOMENT OF WEAKNESS ASKED LIBYA REP HERE TO CONVEY GENERAL INVITATION, AND THAT GOT NOW RPT NOW EMBARRASSED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHAT IT CONSIDERS ANOTHER BOURGUIBA LAPSE. WE THINK FIRST POSSI-

BILITY IS MORE LIKELY. IT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN WHETHER LIBYANS WILL MAKE MUCH OF MATTER,
BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT QADHAFI WOULD NOT RPT
NOT IN FACT BE WELCOME IN TUNIS NOW, GIVEN UNCHANGED
GOT POSITION AGAINST PROMPT UNION WITH LIBYA.
SEELYE

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NNN

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